

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 4, 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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**Re: FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CC Docket No. 90-45**

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We are writing in regard to the FCC's effort to reform the Universal Service Fund's Lifeline compensation system. Subsidized cell phone service is an important economic engine in the lives of low-income families. Owning a cell phone improves individual's financial situation by helping them find employment, and in some cases, helps them stay employed. A cell phone creates opportunities and provides a means for low-income families to empower themselves and leads them on the path to greater economic freedom and wealth.

During this time of economic uncertainty, low-income families must be afforded the tools with which they can have the opportunities to succeed. The FCC's proposed changes to this program are disconcerting.

Any changes to the Lifeline program must not create any unnecessary barriers for low-income families to access this service, including any caps to the fund. By capping the fund the FCC would create a barrier not only for low-income families, but on states currently underrepresented within the program. Every state is entitled to equal access to the Fund and placing a cap is discriminatory in nature to some states.


The FCC has also considered charging customers for this Lifeline service. Forcing low-income families to pay for services will not deter waste, fraud and abuse and will only obstruct access to this service. The FCC should look for an interim solution that is the least intrusive but at the same time, helps prevent waste, fraud and abuse – including utilizing state resources and databases that can help verify customer information.

We applaud the efforts taken by the FCC and recognize that a long term solution must be implemented. However, the Commission should not adopt measures or practices that hinder the individual Lifeline subscriber. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to your response.

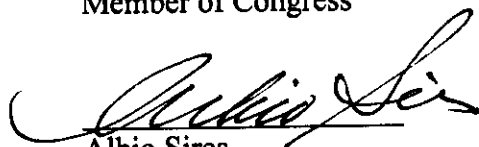
Sincerely,

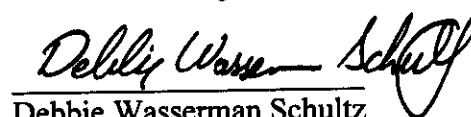
*Eliot L. Engel*  
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

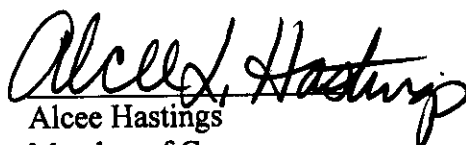
*Ileana Ros-Lehtinen*  
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress

  
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress


  
Shelley Berkley  
Member of Congress


  
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

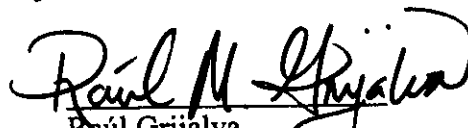
  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

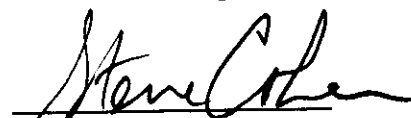
  
Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress

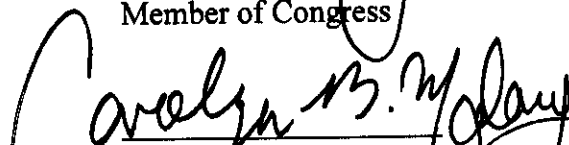
  
Theodore Deutch  
Member of Congress


  
Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

  
John Lewis  
Member of Congress


  
Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress


  
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress


  
Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress

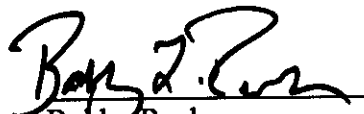
  
Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

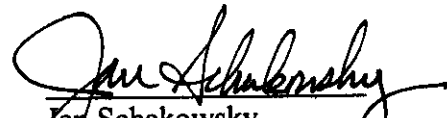
  
Joe Baca  
Member of Congress

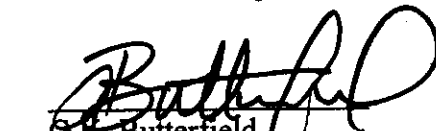
  
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

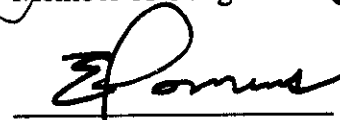
  
Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

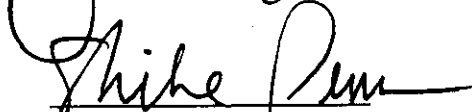
  
Pedro R. Pierluisi  
Member of Congress

  
Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress

  
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

  
G. E. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

  
Edolphus Towns  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Pence  
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Joe Baca  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2366 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Baca:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

The Commission is evaluating a number of proposals designed to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, and otherwise improve the Universal Service Fund. At the same time, the Commission is seeking comment on whether any proposals in its *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* would impose unreasonable barriers to enrollment and participation by eligible consumers and households.

In addition, the Commission recently issued a Public Notice seeking targeted comment on four issues raised in the *Lifeline/Link Up Reform NPRM*, including the design and implementation of a Lifeline/Link-Up broadband pilot; the one-per-residential-address proposal; revising the definition of Link Up; and improving methods for verifying continued eligibility for the program. I believe that the Commission's analysis would benefit from further development of these issues in the record.

I look forward to working with you to ensure access to telecommunications and broadband for all Americans. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Shelley Berkley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
405 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Berkley:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

The Commission is evaluating a number of proposals designed to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, and otherwise improve the Universal Service Fund. At the same time, the Commission is seeking comment on whether any proposals in its *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* would impose unreasonable barriers to enrollment and participation by eligible consumers and households.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable George K. Butterfield  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2305 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Steve I. Cohen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1005 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cohen:

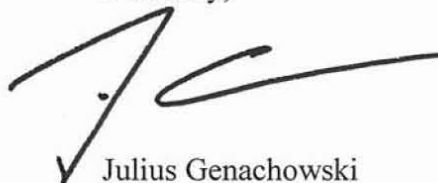
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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Ted Deutch  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1024 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Deutch:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

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Julius Genachowski





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2161 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Engel:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Luis Gutierrez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2266 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gutierrez:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable William Keating  
U.S. House of Representatives  
315 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Keating:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján  
U.S. House of Representatives  
330 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2332 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

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✓ Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Mike Pence  
U.S. House of Representatives  
100 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pence:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Pedro R. Pierluisi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1213 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pierluisi:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

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Julius Genachowski





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2206 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

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Sincerely,

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2330 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Roybal-Allard:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

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September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Gregorio Sablan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
423 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sablan:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2367 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

The Commission is evaluating a number of proposals designed to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, and otherwise improve the Universal Service Fund. At the same time, the Commission is seeking comment on whether any proposals in its *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* would impose unreasonable barriers to enrollment and participation by eligible consumers and households.

In addition, the Commission recently issued a Public Notice seeking targeted comment on four issues raised in the *Lifeline/Link Up Reform NPRM*, including the design and implementation of a Lifeline/Link-Up broadband pilot; the one-per-residential-address proposal; revising the definition of Link Up; and improving methods for verifying continued eligibility for the program. I believe that the Commission's analysis would benefit from further development of these issues in the record.

I look forward to working with you to ensure access to telecommunications and broadband for all Americans. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Julius Genachowski is written in black ink. The signature is stylized, with a large, sweeping 'J' and 'G' that are connected. Below the signature, the name 'Julius Genachowski' is printed in a standard font.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Albio Sires  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sires:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

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I look forward to working with you to ensure access to telecommunications and broadband for all Americans. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 20, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
118 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's efforts to reform and strengthen the Universal Service Lifeline/LinkUp program. I appreciate your thoughts on this important program. Your letter has been entered into the record of the Commission's pending Lifeline/LinkUp Reform and Modernization proceeding.

The Commission is evaluating a number of proposals designed to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, and otherwise improve the Universal Service Fund. At the same time, the Commission is seeking comment on whether any proposals in its *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* would impose unreasonable barriers to enrollment and participation by eligible consumers and households.

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Julius Genachowski